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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/723,451	11/28/2000	Timothy W. Fuehrer	3-48-26-2	6804

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Docket Administrator
Agere Systems Inc.
P. O. Box 614
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922-0614

EXAMINER

PHAM, TUAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2643

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/723,451

Applicant(s)

FUEHRER ET AL.

Examiner

TUAN A PHAM

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, and 18-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Applicant's Remark, filed on 08-26-2004, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-37 under Prendergast et al. (Pub. No.: U.S. 2001/0036261) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Sun et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,212,263) and Amrany et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,067,316).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-6, 9-16, 18-19, 21-23, 25-30, and 33-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,212,263, hereinafter, "Sun") in view of Amrany et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,067,316, hereinafter, "Amrany").

Regarding claims 1, 21, and 30, Sun teaches an electrical interface (see figure 6), comprising:

a codec that generates two signal paths that together form an input differential pair (see figure 6, codec 418, col.7, ln.5-18), and

a primary inductor and a secondary inductor for operable coupling an input differential signal pair to an output differential signal pair (see figure 6, transformer 504, col.7, ln.5-30).

It should be noticed that Sun fails to clearly teach a filter that attenuates a signal occurring in the output differential signal pair. However, Amrany teaches such features (see figure 4, POTS filter 104, col.6, ln.30-38) for a purpose of filtering out the high frequency signals.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of a filter that attenuates a signal occurring in the output differential signal pair, as taught by Amrany, into view of Sun in order to particularly filter out the unwanted frequency signals.

Regarding claims 2, 22, and 33, Amrany further teaches the interface wherein the filter acts as a low pass filter and wherein the electrical interface further includes a

high-pass filter, the low-pass filter and the high-pass filter having overlapping cut-off frequencies (see figure 1, figure 3, guard band 16, low pass filter 60, high pass filter 66, col.4, ln.28-33).

Regarding claims 3 and 34, Sun further teaches the interface wherein the low-pass filter and the high-pass filter together attenuate signals over a frequency range of approximately 50 kHz to approximately 10 MHz (see col.5, ln.1-20).

Regarding claim 4, Sun further teaches the interface wherein the primary inductor is connected between two signal paths forming the input differential signal pair (see figure 6, transformer 504, output differential pairs signals from line driver 502 to the input primary inductor of transformer 504).

Regarding claims 5 and 23, Sun further teaches the interface wherein the primary inductor forms the primary winding of a transformer (see figure 6, transformer 504).

Regarding claims 6 and 35, Sun further teaches the interface wherein the secondary inductor is connected between two signal paths forming the output differential signal pair and wherein the secondary inductor forms the secondary winding of the transformer (see figure 6, transformer 504, secondary inductor, differential output at POTS line 202).

Regarding claims 9 and 25, Amrany further teaches the interface wherein the filter includes an output attenuation element for operable coupling a signal path of the output differential signal pair to ground (see figure 4, POTS filter 104).

Regarding claims 10 and 26, Amrany further teaches the interface wherein the output attenuation element includes a resistor and a capacitor connected in parallel (see figure 4, POTS filter 104). It is inherently that the digital filter should be including a resistor and a capacitor.

Regarding claims 11 and 27, Amrany further teaches the interface wherein the output attenuation element forms a low-pass filter (see figure 4, POTS filter 104).

Regarding claims 12 and 28, Sun further teaches the interface further including an input attenuation element operable coupled to at least one of the signal paths forming the input differential signal pair (see figure 6, input at codec 418).

Regarding claim 13 and 29, Amrany further teaches the interface wherein the input attenuation element includes a resistor and a capacitor connected in series (see figure 5, high pass filter 66, It is inherently that the high pass filter should be including a resistor and a capacitor).

Regarding claim 14, Amrany further teaches the interface wherein the input attenuation element forms a high-pass filter (see figure 3, HPF 66).

Regarding claim 15, Amrany further teaches the interface wherein the filter attenuates a common mode signal in the output differential signal pair (see figure 4, POTS filter 104, col.6, ln.30-38).

Regarding claim 16, Amrany further teaches the interface wherein the interface is adapted for being operable coupled between a codec and a digital circuit (see figure 5, DSP 94).

Regarding claim 18, Sun further teaches the interface further including an analog front end for operable coupling the codec to a telephone line (see figure 4, codec 418, DSL AFE 420).

Regarding claim 19, Sun further teaches the interface wherein the analog front end includes circuitry for providing power to the codec from the telephone line (see figure 6, codec get the power from telephone line at jack 516).

Regarding claim 36, Amrany further teaches the method wherein the filtering step includes the step of attenuating high-frequency signals in the output differential signal pair (see figure 4, POTS filter 104, col.6, ln.30-38). It is inherently that the POTS filter couples to the output, which attenuate the high frequency signals.

Regarding claim 37, Amrany further teaches the method further including the step of attenuating low-frequency signals in the input differential signal pair (see figure 5, HPF 66, It is inherently that the high pass filter couples to the input, which attenuate the low frequency signals).

4. Claims 7-8, 24, and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,212,263, hereinafter, "Sun") in view of Amrany et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,067,316, hereinafter, "Amrany") as applied to claims 1, 21, and 30 above, and further in view of Ulrich (U.S. Patent No.: 4,803,719).

Regarding claims 7, 24, and 31, Sun and Amrany, in combination, fails to clearly teach a capacitor operable coupled between the primary inductor and the

secondary inductor. However, Ulrich teaches such features (see figure 3, capacitor C4, inductor FILT1, col.6, ln.32-34) for a purpose of eliminating electrical noise on the line.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of a capacitor operable coupled between the primary inductor and the secondary inductor, as taught by Ulrich, into view of Sun and Amrany in order to eliminate electrical noise on the line.

Regarding claims 8 and 32, Prendergast further teaches the interface wherein the capacitor has a capacitance is in the range of approximately 0.5 pF to approximately 2.5 pF (see col.2, ln.42-45).

5. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,212,263, hereinafter, "Sun") in view of Amrany et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,067,316, hereinafter, "Amrany") as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Embree et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,169,762, hereinafter, "Embree").

Regarding claim 20, Sun and Amrany, in combination, fails to clearly teach the interface wherein the analog front end includes a shunt regulator. However, Embree teaches such features (see figure 3, shunt regulator 312) for a purpose of protecting the line side device.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of teach the interface wherein the analog front end includes a shunt regulator, as taught by Embree, into view of Sun and Amrany in order to protect the line side device.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In order to expedite the prosecution of this application, the applicants are also requested to consider the following references. Although Beutler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,008,681), Laturell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,404,780), Ohtake et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,852,080), and Yucebay (U.S. Patent No. 6,483,904) are not applied into this Office Action; they are also called to Applicants attention. They may be used in future Office Action(s). These references are also concerned for supporting the system and method for high-speed interface access to a computer network using a subscriber telephone line.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Tuan A. Pham** whose telephone number is (703) 305-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703) 305-4708 and

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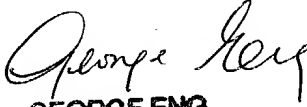
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Art Unit 2643
November 26, 2004
Examiner

Tuan Pham


GEORGE ENG
PRIMARY EXAMINER